

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014**

The City of Leesburg Commission held a regular meeting Monday, June 9, 2014, in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Christian called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Elise Dennison  
Commissioner Jay Hurley  
Commissioner David Knowles  
Commissioner Bill Polk  
Mayor John Christian

Also present were City Manager (CM) Al Minner, City Clerk (CC) Betty Richardson, City Attorney (CA) Fred Morrison, the news media, and others.

Commissioner Hurley gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

PROCLAMATIONS: None

PRESENTATIONS:

CM Minner recognized Gas Director Jack Rogers for 35 years with the City.

Jim Harrison, Co-Founder of Swimming for Life and member of the Lake County Water Safety Task Force presented a Letter of Recognition to the City of Leesburg Fire Department and Recreation Department for their participation in the Lake County Water Safety Day, May 17, 2014. He stated three years ago the Lake County Commission proclaimed May as Water Safety Month. Mr. Harrison thanked the Leesburg Commission and its citizens for being participants in water safety.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Commissioner Dennison moved to adopt the Consent Agenda and Commissioner Knowles seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Commissioner Knowles	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Mayor Christian	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the Consent Agenda, as follows:

**CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES:**

Regular meeting held May 28, 2013

Regular meeting held July 8, 2013

Regular meeting held July 22, 2013

Regular meeting held October 25, 2013

Regular meeting held November 18, 2013

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Regular meeting held May 12, 2014

### **PURCHASING ITEMS:**

Purchase request by the Gas Department for the purchase and installation of communication/data system (SCADA) upgrades at six (6) City locations for a cost not to exceed \$29,900.00.

### **RESOLUTION 9411**

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with L7 Construction, Inc. for the Canal Street WWTF Digester Decant Piping Upgrade Project for a total amount of \$59,577.00; and providing an effective date.

### **RESOLUTION 9412**

Resolution authorizing the Leesburg Police Department to apply for and accept an Edward Byrne Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (JAG) to supplement costs associated with the purchase of department equipment.

### **ADOPTED ORDINANCE 14-18 AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-14 BUDGET FOR THE SECOND QUARTER**

City Clerk Richardson read the ordinance by title only, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2013-14 BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL, STORMWATER, CAPITAL PROJECTS, ELECTRIC, GAS, WATER, WASTEWATER, COMMUNICATIONS, SOLID WASTE, RISK MANAGEMENT, GAS TAX, BUILDING PERMITS AND FLEET SERVICES FUNDS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Knowles moved to adopt the ordinance and Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and audience. There were none.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Knowles	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Mayor Christian	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the ordinance.

### **ADOPTED ORDINANCE 14-19 ADOPTING THE AMENDED AND RESTATED CITY OF LEESBURG RETIREMENT PLAN FOR GENERAL EMPLOYEES,**

**BENEFIT AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBILITY, SUBSECTION 6, EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE WINDOW**

City Clerk Richardson read the ordinance by title only, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, FURTHER AMENDING THE CITY OF LEESBURG RETIREMENT PLAN FOR GENERAL EMPLOYEES, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 03-57, AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED; AMENDING SECTION 6, BENEFIT AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Polk moved to adopt the ordinance and Commissioner Hurley seconded the motion.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and audience.

Mayor Christian asked if there is any indication on the number of employees who may be accepting this offer.

CM Minner stated there are about fifty eligible employees, with about twenty-five showing interest; so probably ten to fifteen actually accepting the offer.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Commissioner Knowles	Yes
Mayor Christian	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the ordinance.

**FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-233 CODE OF ORDINANCES, UTILITY TRANSFER POLICY**

Commissioner Polk introduced the ordinance to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the ordinance by title only, as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA; AMENDING SECTION 2-233 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, ENTITLED UTILITY FUND TRANSFER POLICY; ESTABLISHING A UTILITY FUND TRANSFER POLICY FOR EACH OF ITS ENTERPRISE FUNDS; REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

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Commissioner Dennison asked if this is rolling everything into one rule for all utilities to follow, as she thought there was already a policy for ten percent.

CM Minner stated he thinks Finance is getting a little more technical with the policy, as right now it is based on ten percent of budgeted revenues, not audited expenditures. He stated the budget is probably a more useful tool for management, but in the accountant world they like the audited numbers. He said FD Spinelli wrote this transmittal for less ambiguity; which in the Finance world means they would rather take it from audited expenses rather than budgeted revenues. He stated what this does is actually lessen the transfers from the enterprise funds into the general fund by about \$155,000; the lion's share being the electric fund.

Mayor Christian asked about taking the \$155,000 from the general fund.

CM Minner stated the proposed fiscal year 2015 budgets, which are being worked on now, are looking somewhat balanced. Most of the funds are in the black; the general fund by about \$200,000 on the staff level, and one million on the electric side. If the Commission votes no, keep the policy the same, essentially, it will see another \$155,000 in the general fund and will lighten up the enterprise expenses by those numbers. CM Minner thinks for the purpose of competition, especially on the electric side, with competitors growing around the City, Leesburg is going to want to be competitive with its electric rate. He stated every penny kept in the electric fund to reduce the cost and either reduce transfers or ultimately save money in the enterprise funds helps with rate competition. CM Minner stated moving into the budget process, he thinks it is critical for the City of Leesburg to watch those general fund expenses very carefully and not to rely on its enterprise funds. The enterprise funds are there for a purpose and are a public benefit, but if over relied upon, the City is going to get itself into long term trouble.

Mayor Christian agrees to a point, but stated it is kind of like voting on something today then get to the budget process tomorrow and the City is \$155,000 short in the general fund. The City will then be forced, at that point, to create a policy. He stated the City has had a policy for the last five years with no ambiguity problems, but now all of a sudden the Finance Department has an ambiguity problem and just took away \$155,000. The City will not be able to hire, give raises, or do any projects because it just gave away \$155,000 on paper to the enterprise funds, which last month had no problem finding three million dollars. Mayor Christian stated he would have preferred this policy come during the budget process for Commission decision, as the City is not in any kind of financial dyer straights, it was not in the CAFR, and was not a recommendation of the auditors.

Finance Director (FD) Bill Spinelli stated he made sure the numbers were going to be reliable and was thinking the same as the Mayor. He stated for example of why this is important, not just from the accountant aspect, but one of the big things realized with this is the electric utility department, which is the City's largest transfer. He stated his first year in Leesburg the revenues were budgeted at seventy million dollars, so the transfer was based on that number; however, the actual number came in at just under sixty million. City policy specifically states that if over ten percent, it needs to be given back. FD Spinelli stated this policy gives some comfort that the City will not go over the ten percent and he is just trying to properly align it and make it a little more conservative. He stated he did speak with the utility directors and financial advisors to make sure

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everyone is in agreement that this was the right way; not just for Accounting but also for the utilities.

Commissioner Polk stated the financial advisors have been advising the City for years it should not transfer more.

Mayor Christian stated some utilities are at 8.5 or 8.75 percent and not ten.

FD Spinelli stated yes, there is a little flexibility; this just makes it more transparent.

Commissioner Hurley stated his concerns are like the Mayor's as far as the money for this year. The City is \$200,000 in the black now, but has not yet hired its recreation director or done anything with economic development. He stated while the purpose is definitely moving the City in the right direction, to wean it from enterprise fund transfers into the general fund, his concerns are the City could end up flat. He asked if this could be done next year, as some funds are already hitting the higher transfer marks.

FD Spinelli said the second reason for doing this is the City has a net loss provision in its current transfer policy and had to do a waiver last year; with this new language, that provision is not included. For example, if the electric fund goes negative, the general fund would have to reimburse five million dollars which would take all the cash reserves. He stated he wants to protect the general fund from having to pay this which was another reason for updating this policy. He stated the Commission could leave it as it is; however, if a department goes negative this year the general fund will be in trouble.

### **APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF A FRONT LOADING REFUSE TRUCK FROM NEXTRAN TRUCK CENTER FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$239,949.80**

Mayor Christian asked if there is a motion.

Commissioner Polk moved to purchase the Nextran Truck and Commissioner Knowles seconded the motion.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Polk asked why only one bid was accepted.

Public Works Director (PWD) DC Maudlin stated two bids were received; however, the second bid was non responsive, as they provided a cost for a truck which did not meet City specifications.

Commissioner Polk asked if all City expectations were provided to all vendors; did staff specify two mirrors instead of one, etc.

PWD Maudlin stated the specification was for a truck with a twelve yard bin. Of the two bids received, one was for a twelve yard bin and the other for a ten yard bin.

Purchasing Manager (PM) Mike Thornton stated the City bids do have language which states if any of the vendors feel like the specifications are too restrictive, meaning staff

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wants two mirrors instead of one, they can inform staff prior to when the bids are due. Purchasing will then get with Fleet to go over the specifications and if they can be revised, revise them. He stated staff did not receive any information from any vendors that they wanted any of the specifications to be revisited.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Commissioner Knowles	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Mayor Christian	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission approved the purchase.

### **ADOPTED RESOLUTION 9413 COLLOCATION AGREEMENT WITH LIFESTREAM BEHAVIORAL CENTER, INC**

Commissioner Polk introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF  
LEESBURG, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY  
CLERK TO EXECUTE A COLLOCATION AGREEMENT WITH  
LIFESTREAM BEHAVIORAL CENTER, INC.; AND PROVIDING AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE

Commissioner Polk moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Knowles seconded the motion.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Polk stated he thinks the amount is still high, but the City does save \$200 a month. Commissioner Hurley agreed.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Knowles	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	No
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Mayor Christian	Yes

Four yeas, one nay, the Commission adopted the resolution.

### **ADOPTED RESOLUTION 9414 CONNECTION OF THE WHITE MARSH II SUBDIVISION TO THE ROYAL HIGHLANDS WATER TREATMENT PLANT SYSTEM**

Commissioner Hurley introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the resolution by title only, as follows:

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RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING CONNECTION OF THE WHITE MARSH II SUBDIVISION, CONSISTING OF APPROXIMATELY 105 HOMES, TO THE ROYAL HIGHLANDS WATER TREATMENT PLANT SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Commissioner Knowles moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience. There were none.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Commissioner Knowles	Yes
Mayor Christian	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

### **DENIED RESOLUTION 9415 ANNUAL IMPACT FEE ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED BY SECTION 22-327, CITY OF LEESBURG CODE OF ORDINANCES**

Commissioner Hurley introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG REVISING THE IMPACT FEE SCHEDULE FOR WATER, WASTEWATER, POLICE, FIRE, AND PARKS, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Commissioner Dennison moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Knowles seconded the motion.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Dennison thanked staff for the hard copy, stating it is much easier to read.

Commissioner Polk stated he is not in favor of impact fees and definitely not a 2.9% increase as it already cost \$5,000 to build a house now in Leesburg. He stated Leesburg is probably with largest sufferer of any construction in Lake County and does not see the need to add money to something that is already not feasible.

Commissioner Hurley asked what is the estimated annual revenue generated for the City with this increase.

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Senior Planner (SP) Dan Miller with Planning and Zoning stated this is the annual review of impact fees which is required by Leesburg Code, Section 22-327. He apologized for not having those numbers, but stated the increase to a 2,000 square foot single family residence would be \$140 and there would also be a higher rate on the commercial side.

Commissioner Hurley asked what is the purpose of this proposal.

SP Miller stated per code, staff is required to bring the construction cost index from the Engineering News Record Magazine, published every May, to the Commission for review. This magazine is a twenty city index which covers wages, and different construction costs, like cement and steel, etc., and comes up with an index each year either for an increase or decrease.

CM Minner stated staff is reporting, per code, information to the Commission for its review to either adopt the index report or vote no, it has been reviewed, but keep it the same.

Mayor Christian asked where Leesburg compares to other cities.

SP Miller stated generally Leesburg is very comparable to most other cities. Staff recently did a comparison on a 300 seat restaurant with 11,000 square feet and Leesburg was substantially lower than Eustis and Tavares and right about equal with Lady Lake.

Mayor Christian asked CA Morrison for guidance as there is motion on the floor, but none of the three options was chosen.

CA Morrison stated two of the options can be taken care of with the motion; if the motion passes, then the 2.9% is adopted and if defeated, then the Commission has passively elected to leave the impact fees as they are. He stated the third option would be to amend the motion and pick an increase between zero and 2.9%.

Dan Robuck stated as a resident, he is very much against impact fees as they are generally a very poor funding source of a onetime fee. He encouraged the Commission to not pass the increase and thinks the City needs to re-examine what types of businesses it wants. Possibly consider waiving impact fees, maybe not across the board, but for certain targeted industries, as a way to do economic development.

Mayor Christian stated the Commission is voting on the adoption of the agenda item which if voted yes, will increase 2.9% and if voted no, keeps the fees the same.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Polk	No
Commissioner Dennison	No
Commissioner Knowles	No
Commissioner Hurley	No
Mayor Christian	No

No yeas, Five nays, the Commission denied the resolution.



**ADOPTED RESOLUTION 9416 AGREEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT SERVICES GROUP, INC., FOR A FIRE SERVICES ASSESSMENT STUDY**

Commissioner Knowles introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LEESBURG AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES GROUP, INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING A STUDY AND EVALUATION OF THE POTENTIAL TO IMPOSE A NON - AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT TO FUND FIRE SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF LEESBURG, TO INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE AMOUNT OF SUCH AN ASSESSMENT AND THE METHODOLOGY OF IMPOSING AND COLLECTING SUCH, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Dennison moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Hurley seconded the motion.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Polk asked if this is adopted today, that means no contract will sent out until the issue with the Fire Department is resolved.

FD Spinelli stated correct; he is currently working with the City Manager to discuss the options with the County.

CM Minner stated the Commission tasked staff with two issues; 1) seek information on a potential County City merger of fire and emergency services, and 2) build a sustainability plan for the fire department and emergency services. Task one has been started, there have been about three meetings and the County is calculating numbers to show a) what it would cost them to provide the exact same level of service, same number of fire fighters, and the same number on engines as Leesburg provides, and b) what they propose they could reasonably do. Those numbers should be in any time and David Heath will be making a report to the County Commission soon. CM Minner stated Chief Johnson is preparing a sustainability plan, which will be to provide a five year projection of what the potential Leesburg EMS Fire Department budget should look like for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019. Even if the City reduced fire services or other services, it would still need more revenue, so the way to get more revenue in the sustainability plan would be to reduce those expenses and implement a fire service fee. He stated to implement a fire service assessment there needs to be a report. The assessment will do the legal work, survey work, the justification work, and that assessment, prior to any implementation; will be brought before the Commission for review.

Mayor Christian asked if Chief Johnson brings a sustainability plan but does not have all this information, how can it be competitive with the County who already has a fire assessment fee. How can you compare the City running its own sustainable fire

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department without having the revenue from the fire assessment fee and compete against the County which has a fire assessment fee. It is like comparing apples to oranges.

CM Minner stated he does not think so, and speaking on behalf of Chief Johnson, believes the City fire department provides good quality service and is doing it for a price which frankly Leesburg cannot afford. Staff has demonstrated to the Commission in the five year projections, if everything remains the same, there will be a deficit expenditure of Fiscal Year 2018. He stated if the City continues on this course, it is going to have deficit expenditures because it cannot sustain a six million dollar fire department.

Mayor Christian asked if the chief is going to bring a sustainability plan without with a fire assessment fee.

CM Minner stated no; the chief knows there are two things which need to happen: a) implementation of an assessment plan and b) reduction in fire expenses. With these two items combined, staff believes there can be sustainability.

Mayor Christian asked how he can vote on whether or not to merge with the County if this information is received later. He thinks all information should come at the same time so the Commission can decide on which option is best for Leesburg.

Commissioner Knowles stated if the City merges with the County, the residents will pay the county assessment fee. This will be a new tax for our citizens that they are not paying now. CM Minner stated that is correct.

Commissioner Polk stated it is an assessment fee they will pay most likely one way or the other.

Camille Tharpe and Rachel Pratt, with Government Services Group out of Tallahassee, introduced themselves.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Commissioner Knowles	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Mayor Christian	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

### **FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES DELEGATE**

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Mayor Christian stated the Commission needs to elect a delegate for the Florida League of Cities conference and asked if any Commissioner would like to volunteer.

Commissioner Dennison volunteered.

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Commissioner Knowles moved to nominate Commissioner Dennison as the City of Leesburg's delegate for the 2014 Annual Conference and Commission Polk seconded the motion.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience. There were none.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Knowles	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Mayor Christian	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the nomination.

### **ADOPTED RESOLUTION 9417 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE BETWEEN THE CITY OF LEESBURG AND CENTRAL FLORIDA KFC, INC**

Commissioner Polk introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Richardson read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE BETWEEN THE CITY OF LEESBURG AND CENTRAL FLORIDA KFC, INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESOLVING A UTILITY BILLING ERROR WHICH RESULTED IN CENTRAL FLORIDA KFC, INC. PAYING TO THE CITY OF LEESBURG AMOUNTS IN EXCESS OF WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PAID OVER A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY FOURTEEN YEARS, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Commissioner Knowles moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Dennison seconded the motion.

Mayor Christian requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Dennison stated she understands by the documentation provided, the City will be going after the other company involved.

CM Minner replied yes.

Commissioner Dennison asked if the City will be able to collect from this company.

CA Morrison stated hopefully the City will be able to collect the entire amount the Commission is approving. One reason is this amount is substantially less than the actual overpayment. He stated the bills were just literally swapped, so the amount KFC over paid was an under billing to the other customer.

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The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Polk	Yes
Commissioner Dennison	Yes
Commissioner Knowles	Yes
Mayor Christian	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

### **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:**

Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable Customers with City Attorney  
Expected Write-offs as of April 2014  
Report of Receipts and Disbursements by Fund April 2014  
City Manager Contingency Fund

Mayor Christian stated he noticed in the City Manager Contingency fund a payment for customs equipment. He asked with the Airport budget is split out, would this be under their budget. CM Minner stated yes.

Commissioner Polk stated he met with Larry Phillips, Joe Shipes and several others and Mr. Philips is willing to donate \$12,000 again this year for fire works for the City of Leesburg. Commissioner Polk stated he donated \$100 for one big boom and asked the City Manager if he would donate \$5,000 out of his contingency fund. CM Minner stated he would.

**CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS:** Nothing

**CITY MANAGER ITEMS:** Nothing

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Don Lukich stated last July, after a heated discussion, the Commission passed an Ordinance for a five percent per year rate increase for electric for three years. Mr. Lukich wanted to bring this to the attention of our new City Manager and reminded the Commission it promised to review this every year. He stated July is almost here and thinks it would be appropriate to report back soon if the five percent increase coming this October is still necessary.

CM Minner stated this will be part of the budget process unless the Commission would prefer to do it separately. The Commission was in agreement for a review during the budget process.

Carolyn VanDyken asked if the recreation manager position is budgeted for year 2014 or 2015. She is really concerned about this position as she thinks someone needs to take hold of the recreation department. She would also like to see Parks and Recreation back together, as she does not know of any City which separates them except for Leesburg and there are issues with both of them working together.

FD Spinelli stated this is still being worked on; nothing has been budgeted yet for either 2014 or 2015.

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CM Minner said it is in the budget process; he was waiting to get through the first budget round and is very comfortable with where things stand. He thinks it is good in the short term, but that does not take away from what he said earlier about City struggles in years 2016, 2017, and 2018; those are real.

Mrs. VanDyken asked if there is any push for an interim manager.

CM Miner stated he will not appoint an interim director unless he receives formal direction from the Commission.

### ROLL CALL:

**Commissioner Dennison** asked when the Venetian Gardens report is expected. **CM Minner** stated he met with Greg Beliveau and he is tweaking the report to include some cost estimates and it should be completed in the next few weeks. He stated he will try to have it on first meeting agenda in July. **Commissioner Dennison** asked how the fiber report is progressing and **CM Minner** stated it will be on the next agenda. **Commissioner Dennison** congratulated Dave Lewis; Chairperson for the Airport Advisory Board, stating the article, over the weekend, in the Orlando Sentinel was excellent.

**Commissioner Knowles** stated he is looking forward to the fire assessment report and the review of the City's Fire department. He knows the County would love to pick up the City of Leesburg and expand their "business" part and be able to charge a fire assessment fee, which no one in Leesburg has to pay at this particular time. Leesburg is a town class two, which is the best fire protection in all the County and Commissioner Knowles cannot image the County will still be able to maintain that rating and reduce the level of personnel they are using in Leesburg.

**Commissioner Hurley** expressed thanks to all the volunteers who made the Leesburg Corn Fest a success; it was another great event in Leesburg. He stated he is looking forward to the next event.

**Commissioner Polk** stated he also attended the corn fest, it was a good hot day, good music, and everyone seemed to have good time. The Lightning are doing a great job, they have won their first three games and play again tomorrow night. Commissioner Polk stated he saw PWD Maudlin at last night's game and looking out over the field and across Venetian Gardens, PWD Maudlin and staff have really made a big difference in Venetian Gardens as a whole. He stated Venetian Gardens is almost back to like it used to be a long time ago and everyone appreciates all the hard work. **Commissioner Polk** stated on the Venetian Gardens report, when they spoke with Greg Beliveau, there was talk of private enterprise doing projects the City would not have to do. He said when the report is received, he would like to see the move on it pretty quick, not dragged out, and if it means leasing property to people for boat or canoe rentals, restaurants or something like that, to go ahead and get it started. He stated there will be projects the City will have to find funds for, but to start the private enterprise projects, so people in the area know something is being done. **Commissioner Polk** stated there was an article in the newspaper about how Clermont is booming at the seams. He stated they are booming, but if Orlando folded up, so would Clermont, because everyone works in Orlando but lives in Clermont. They hardly have any industry, so just getting a McDonalds or a Starbucks really has not much affect other than creating a few jobs. Leesburg needs

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industry, like at the airport, so he does not want to forget about the CR 470 property. He stated the City has not heard from Duke on what they are trying to do to entice companies, so he would like to receive a report on the CR 470 property and keep plugging away to make something happen. He stated Leesburg needs more than just a service industry.

**Mayor Christian** stated Duke was supposed to have a marketing firm bring a report on 470 to the Commission so the City could use the same firm, but has not heard anything. He stated this would be his number one priority for Leesburg to actually keep marketing this property. He asked if any information has been received. **CM Minner** stated he will have PWD Maudlin prepare a report for the next meeting. He stated this was moving along until the skink scare, he believes in January, and PWD Maudlin shifted his efforts to getting an environmental study. He proactively recruited a firm to come in and do the environmental analysis, survey the skinks and the mating season, etc. **CM Minner** stated he never knew what a skink was until coming to Leesburg; essentially it is like a lizard which looks like a snake with legs. **PWD Maudlin** stated this is all part of the site certification process and staff has been working with McCallum Sweeney. This is one of their requirements in getting the environmental clearance. **CM Minner** stated the City wants to be able to turn over acreage to a company which is good condition and not have to worry about skinks. **Mayor Christian** requested the Commission receive a monthly update to keep them informed. **PWD Maudlin** stated staff is also working with the MPO, the County, and FDOT on the widening of CR 470. They have agreed to split the project, move the parcel which goes through City property, and advance it on the construction list.

**Mayor Christian** stated Juneteenth is coming up in the Carver Heights neighborhood at Berry Park on June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. He said this was the day the African slaves got word in Texas they were free and had a big celebration. Mayor Christian introduced Mrs. Berry, who has been doing this event now for at least eleven years. He stated it is a great time of food, fun and family activities.

### ADJOURN:

Commissioner Knowles moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Betty M. Richardson  
City Clerk

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J. Andi Purvis  
Recorder